NO PROBE BASIS, GURVICH QUOTED

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But Gremillion Will Not Investigate Garrison

Developments in District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination probe Friday brought a surprise statement by a former Garrison investigator, a refusal by the state attorney general to investigate the DA, and the issuance of two new subpenas.

The major break of the day came when the National Broadcasting Co. quoted William H. Gurvich, a New Orleans private detective and formerly Garrison's chief probe investigator, as saying that the DA had no basis for an investigation into the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

In a statement to The Times-Picayune Friday night, Garrison again accused the federal government of bringing pressure to stop the investigation. However, his statement made no direct mention of Gurvich's claims.

In Baton Rouge, Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion said he would not initiate an investigation into tactics being used by Garrison in his case against 54-year-old retired businessman Clay L. Shaw.

Shaw has been accused of conspiring to murder President John F. Kennedy, and is free on $10,000 bond awaiting trial.

NO AUTHORITY

In a letter to Aaron M. Kohn, managing director of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, and E. C. Upton Jr., its president, Gremillion said that he had no authority to investigate Garrison's office because he had no evidence that Garrison is unwilling to perform his duties.

The commission's request for an investigation came after an NBC telecast which claimed that the DA's office was making attempts to induce witnesses to give false testimony or suppress facts in the case.

The subpenas issued Friday were for Kohn and Upton. Assistant DA Alvin Oser would not elaborate on reasons for the subpenas, but said only that the two have been called to appear before the grand jury at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Upton said Friday night, after being served with the subpena, that he hopes Albert V. LaBiche, grand jury foreman, "will request Garrison to appear at the grand jury session and handle matters insofar as they relate to us (the commission).

"Garrison seems to avoid facing Mr. Kohn," added Upton. "We have been out of communication with him for several months."

According to NBC, Gurvich said the DA has "no basis in fact and no material evidence in Garrison's case for an assassination plot. The network said Gurvich made the statement in Washington June 8 to United States Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., apparently without Garrison's knowledge.

DIDN'T SAY HOAX

Friday, a Garden City, L. I., newspaper, Newsday, printed a copyrighted interview with Gurvich in which he was asked if he had told Sen. Kennedy that the investigation here was a hoax.

"That is absolutely untrue,"

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GREMILLION WON'T PROBE DA

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replied Gurvich. "I think Mr. Garrison believes in what he is doing. He is sincere." But, according to Newsday, Gurvich offered a "no comment" when asked if he had told the brother of the late President that there was no substance to the New Orleans probe.

"There's a difference between a hoax and saying there's nothing to it," Gurvich added.

TRY CASE IN COURT

Gremillion, who said that he isn't afraid to prosecute Garrison and that he has done it once before, also stated: "I think this matter ought to be tried in the courts, not in the newspapers, press or TV. I think Mr. Garrison ought to be allowed to try his case in the court."

In declining to begin an inquiry into the case, Gremillion cited a ruling that said a district attorney's powers cannot be assumed, supplanted or superseded when he is willing to perform his duties. Neither can an attorney general deprive a DA of his powers, added Gremillion.

Meanwhile, Garrison announced that Gurvich, who had been working with the probe for several months, "has not been part of the Kennedy investigation for the past six weeks" and had never been a member of his regular staff. Gurvich's withdrawal from the case had been kept secret until this time.

A member of Garrison's staff, who declined to be quoted by name, said that under judicial guidelines he could not say whether the DA has a strong case against Shaw. Garrison has previously stated on several occasions that the mystery of President Kennedy's murder was "solved" and that he had the necessary proof to obtain convictions.

TALK WITH KENNEDY

Gurvich, in the Newsday interview, said that he did most of the talking during the first half of his meeting with Sen. Kennedy. "Then he asked me questions during the second half. I didn't refuse to answer a single question."

Gurvich said he rode in the car with Kennedy when the senator had to catch a plane to make an engagement in New York. To continue their discussion, they "went to the back of the terminal and sat on the edge of a conveyor" where they talked for another 30 minutes, Gurvich added.

Although Gurvich refused to reply to many questions concerning his talk with Sen. Kennedy, he spoke freely about the investigation itself, and much of what he said was contradictory to Garrison claims.

Gurvich told Newsday that the evidence clearly points to Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin of President Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963. Garrison has said there is a good chance that Oswald "didn't kill anybody."

NO COMMENT

Gurvich refused to comment on whether Garrison's star witness, Baton Rouge insurance salesman Perry Raymond Russo, was a credible witness. However, he did disagree with Russo's recent statement that he had been told by an NBC spokesman that "NBC and the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) wanted to get Garrison."

"Now tell me," continued Gurvich, "why would NBC and the CIA want to get Garrison?"

Newsday said Gurvich was most ill at ease about the status of Shaw. It was Gurvich, under Garrison's instructions, who announced Shaw's arrest to the public March 1.

Gurvich told Newsday that he wanted to see that everyone connected with the case was treated like a human being. In reply to other questions, Gurvich said he had not seen Garrison in some time, and that he (Gurvich) had not read the Warren Commission Report on the circumstances and aftermath of President Kennedy's death.

In his statement Friday night to The Times-Picayune, Garrison said:

"There will continue to be developments—all of them mysteriously coordinated—which are designed to create the idea that our investigation should be stopped immediately if not sooner.

"These developments are no great surprise. There will undoubtedly be others, always suggesting that our methods are inhuman or that we have no case at all.

"A tremendous amount of federal power is being brought to bear on anyone connected with our investigation—whether he be witness or investigator—in an effort to continue to conceal the real truth about President Kennedy's murder. It is obvious that the official Washington attitude is that our inquiry must be stopped at all costs.

"All they are doing is proving two things; first, that we were correct when we uncovered the involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the assassination; second, that there is something very wrong today with our government in Washington, D.C., inasmuch as it is willing to use massive economic power to conceal the truth from the people.

"If these political hacks holding high federal offices think that they can stop us from bringing out the entire truth about the assassination, they are going to get the surprise of their lives.

"As far as I'm concerned, there is not enough money in the United States Treasury and there is not enough printer's ink

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in this country to keep us from developing the facts about the murder of President Kennedy."